ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Sanitary Conditions

of the Rural District of

Vaynor and Penderyn

in the County of Brecknock,

for the Year,

1945

By . .
T. H. STEPHENS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

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By
T. H. STEPHENS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

H. W. Southey & Sons, Ltd.,

Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District Council

Chairman, 1945 - 46 :
Councillor ISAAC MORRIS, J.P.

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Clerk :

RONALD H. ROSE, Esq.,
25, Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

Medical Officer :

T. H. STEPHENS, Esq., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
"Danybryn", Merthyr Tydfil.

Sanitary Inspector :

SPENCER P. HARRIS, Esq., M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.,
25, Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

Treasurers :

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED,
Merthyr Tydfil.

To the Chairman and Members of the Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,—

I beg to submit, for your consideration, the Annual Report of the Sanitary Conditions existing, and the Vital Statistics relating to the Rural District for the year 1945. The report is in accordance with the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

At the begining of the year, the dual post of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector was terminated, and separate departments set up. Mr. E. J. H. Hughes, who held the former dual position, was appointed Architect and Surveyor ; and Mr. S. P. Harris, appointed to the post of Sanitary Inspector.

During the year a survey was carried out in connection with infestation control in sewers and buildings, as required by the Infestation Order (1943) of the Ministry of Food. The Council's sewers were subjected to two treatments, and satisfactory results were obtained. To carry out this work two men were trained by the Sanitary Inspector. Block Control treatment was carried out on river banks and refuse tips, during the period when the sewers were treated, and highly successful results obtained. The Disinfestation of the river banks at Pontneathvaughan, which was carried out during the campaign on the sewers, presented difficulties owing to the peculiar formation of the rocks, and natural vegetation growing at this picturesque spot. The difficulty was overcome by utilising tins as baiting points, and the final kill in the area was exceptionally high. As a result of publicity, by means of posters, the residents in the area have co-operated with your officials in carrying out an extensive campaign.

A preliminary survey of the housing conditions in the rural area commenced during the year, at the direction of the Minister of Health. The object of this survey is to provide a record of the condition of every "working class" house in the district, as a basis for a programme of improvement of rural housing conditions, to be carried out over a period of years. The procedure prescribed by the Housing Acts and Regulations apply to the survey, and the standard adopted in the area is one that has been formulated by the Rural Districts of Breconshire Housing Survey Committee. To meet our own needs, a survey card was designed, in the department, and is now in use for the housing inspection.

BOUNDARIES.

PARISH OF VAYNOR—*East Side.* The Taf Fechan River from its junction with the Taf Fawr River as far as the junction with the Car Brook.

North Side.—From Car Brook to the junction of the Llysiog Brook with the Taf Fawr River.

West Side.—Taf Fawr River from its junction with the Taf Fechan River to the junction of the Llysiog Brook and the Taf Fawr River.

PARISH OF PENDERYN.—*East Side.*—The Taf Fawr River from the Ffrwd Brook, Nantygourgarn.

North Side.—From Nantygourgarn, where it joins the River Hepste to the junction of the River Hepste and Mellte, and from Mellte River to Dinas Rock..

South Side.—From Dinas Rock, following Cwmnant Brook to the Cynon River near Lletty Rhys, and the Cynon River as far as the junction of Nant Hir at Cwm Ynys Mwn Tan, and following Nant Hir Brook to Nant Ffrwd Brook to its junction with the Taf Fawr River.

PARISH OF YSTRADFELLTE.—*North Side.*—From Carn-yr-Onen to Nant-yr-Eira.

South Side.—From Heol-las to Scwd Eira, and along the Afon Mellte to the bridge at Pontneathvaughan.

East Side.—From Nant-yr-Eira to Blaen Hepste and along the River Hepste to Heol-las.

West Side.—Afon Nedd at Pontneathvaughan Bridge to Nant y-Bryn and Nant-y-Bryn to Carn-yr-Owen.

TOPOGRAPHY.

The Rural District comprises the three Parishes of Vaynor, Penderyn and Ystradfellte, in the County of Brecon. The Parish of Ystradfellte which has been administered by the Neath Rural District Council, was added to this Rural District by a Review Order of April 1st., 1934.

The three Parishes comprised in this Rural District are of considerable extent. The total area being 39,271 acreas, or over 61 square miles, with an average length of 8 miles and a width of about 12 miles, they are situated on the southern boundary of the County of Brecon, and adjoin the districts of Neath, Aberdare and Merthyr Tydfil, in the County of Glamorgan. They form

four valleys in the foothills of the south escarpment of the Brecknockshire Beacons with high table lands between.

The PARISH OF VAYNOR comprises two valleys running northwards towards two spurs of the Brecknock Beacons, and the PARISH OF PENDERYN consists of high table land adjoining and emerging towards the same mountainous area. These rural Parishes are only separated by the narrow streams already mentioed from the County of Glamorgan, and the important populous Urban Districts of Aberdare and Merthyr Tydfil on the south. The PARISH OF YSTRADFELLTE presents similar physical features extending from the rugged Van Mountains to the north covering a rough hilly table land intersected by two very narrow valleys converging towards an apex at Pontneathvaughan.

ELEVATION.

The district as a whole is at a great elevation above sea level, varying from 263 feet to no less than 2,250 feet ; it will be realised that, the nearly 40,000 acres contained in the area includes a considerable amount of sparsely inhabited mountain land. In the Parish of Vaynor, the levels extend from 645 feet near Cefn Bridge to 1,612 feet at Twyn-y-Croes on the mountain above Cwm Glais. Penderyn Parish presents levels varying from 588 feet at Cynon Bridge, Harwaun, to 1,376 feet at the top of Twyn, Cadlan. While the Parish of Ystradfellte contains such extreme variations of level as 263 feet at the bridge at Pontneathvaughan, and 2,250 feet near the top of Fan Fawr, which mountain is partly in the Parish.

CLIMATE.

The proximity of the well-known range of mountains known as the Brecknock Beacons, accounts for the rather heavy rain-fall that prevails. Some of the largest reservoirs in Wales are partly in the Rural District.

ACREAGE.

Vaynor	...	...	6,549.706 acres
Penderyn	...	...	13,366.337
Ystradfellte	...	...	19,355.000
			39,271 acres.

RATEABLE VALUE as at 30th SEPTEMBER, 1945.

Parish of Vaynor	...	£19,453	0	0
Parish of Penderyn	...	£13,713	0	0
Parish of Ystradfellte	...	£6,498	0	0
		£39,664	0	0

PRODUCT OF A PENNY RATE.

Parish of Vaynor	...	£76	14	4
Parish of Penderyn	...	£54	17	9
Parish of Ystradfellte	...	£25	18	5
		£157	10	6

POPULATION—CENSUS RETURN.

CENSUS, 1931 :—

		Males.		*Females.*		*Total.*
Penderyn ...	...	973	...	885	...	1,858
Vaynor ...	...	1,544	...	1,619	...	3,163
Ystradfellte	...	341	...	309	...	650
	...	...	...	...	...	5,671

CENSUS RETURNS :—

	Year 1901		*Year* 1911		*Year* 1921		*Year* 1931
Vaynor & Penderyn	4,766	...	5,526	...	5,674	...	5,021
Ystradfellte	—	...	629	...	613	...	650

The decrease from 1921 to 1931 of the three Parishes was 9.8 per cent.

Estimated population (Registrar General's figures) on Dec. 31st, 1944, was 5,100.

LIVE BIRTHS

		Male.		*Female.*
Legitimate	...	49.	...	38.
Illegitimate	...	4.	...	3.
TOTAL	...	53.	...	41.

STILL BIRTHS.

	Male.	*Female.*
Legitimate	2.	1.
Illegitimate	1.	0.
TOTAL	3.	1.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

	Male.	*Female.*
Legitimate	5.	2.
Illegitimate	0.	1.
TOTAL	5.	3.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The births registered in the district in 1945 numbered 94 (male 53, female 41), the annual birth rate being 18.4 per 1,000. The county rate in 1942 was 16.40, in 1943 was 15.96, in 1944 was 17.87 and in 1945 was 16.42. The birth rate for this area in 1945 was 18.4, compared with 17.3 in 1944, 9.07 in 1943, and 14.2 in 1942. Of the total births in the area 4 male and 3 female were illegitimate.

STILL-BIRTHS. These numbered 4, the rate per 1,000 of the population being 0.7, the county rate being 0.52, and for England and Wales 0.46 per 1,000.

DEATHS. The total number of deaths assigned to this area was 82 (46 males, and 36 females) ; this figure takes into account 18 inward transferable deaths during the year. There were no outward transfers. The death rate for the year 1945 was 16.08, compared with 13.0 for 1944, 14.4 for 1943 and 11.8 for 1942. The county rate for 1945 was 14.10, as against 12.12 for 1944 and 13.18 for 1943. The death rate for England and Wales for 1945 was given as 11.4, compared with 11.6 per 1,000 for 1944 and 12.1 per 1,000 for 1943.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE. These numbered 8, being 2 more than the previous year. One was an illegitimate female child, the others were 5 male and 2 female infants.

Under one week—1. (*a*) Acute haemorrhage from stomach and congenital obstruction of bile duct.

Under one month—3. (*a*) Icturus neonatorum and premature birth.

(*b*) Cleft palate and debility.
(*c*) Acute enteritis.

Under two months.—1. (*a*) Asphyxia.

Three months to six months—3. (*a*) Infantile epilepsy.
(*b*) Acute gastro enteritis.
(*c*) Inanition.

It is to be noted that the number of deaths was 2 more than the previous year, and that the infant mortality rate has increased from 79.5 to 85.1 per 1,000 births.

Deaths Under Two Years of Age from Diarrhoea. Two deaths were recorded of one male (aged 12 weeks) and one female (aged 3 weeks).

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis, etc. There were none under this heading.

Deaths from Cancer. Deaths from all forms of Cancer remain very high, numbering 11 for 1945, compared with 14 for 1944 and 7 for 1943, the proportions of male to female deaths being 9 to 2. The percentage of deaths of all causes was 13.4 for 1945, compared with 21.2 for 1944 and 9.7 for 1943. This treacherous disease has taken a great toll of life and the facilities for proper treatment of this disease are limited. The Cancer Act has not been put into operation owing to wartime conditions, but the Breconshire County Council has been represented on meetings in relation to this project during the year. It is to be hoped that radiotherapy and all modern treatment will soon be available for all the inhabitants of Wales.

Deaths from Tuberculosis. Tuberculosis was responsible for 3 male and 3 female deaths, the percentage of the total deaths being 7.3 compared with 3.03 for 1944.

Deaths from Heart Disease. Heart disease was responsible for 9 male and 10 female deaths, making a total of 19, the percentage of the total deaths being 23.1

Deaths from Bronchitis. Bronchitis was responsible for 2 deaths (1 male and 1 female), making the percentage of total deaths 2.4.

HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory services for the Area. Dr. R. Pendrill Charles, who is Public Analyst for many authorities, has been responsible for the analysis of milk supplies and water. It was felt that having regard to the fact that the Emergency Public Health

Laboratory at Cardiff was in closer proximity, that a more expeditious service would be obtained by submitting swabs to this laboratory.

Ambulance Facilities. These are available from Merthyr and Aberdare General Hospitals and from the Mardy Isolation Hospital. Arrangements were made during the year for ambulance facilities for Ystradfellte and Hepste with the Priory for Wales ; and for Pontneathvaughan with the Neath R.D.C.

Nursing at Home. This is undertaken by voluntary associations, assisted by grants from the County Council.

Clinics are carried on by the County Council for expectant mothers and infant welfare at Cefn and Penderyn.

Hospitals. Owing to the close proximity of the area to urban areas like Merthyr and Aberdare, we are fortunate in our hospital facilities. With regard to hospitals for infectious disease, an agreement has been reached with the Merthyr Corporation to nurse infectious diseases from our area at the Mardy Isolation Hospital at a cost of £4 4s. 0d. per week, plus ambulance fees. I am advised that there was a project on, prior to the war for erecting an Infectious Disease Hospital in Brecon.

Water Supply. The district has been reasonably satisfactorily supplied with a good water supply. Cefn Coed from the mains of the Taf Fechan Water Board. Pontneathvaughan is supplied by the mains of Neath Rural District Council ; Hirwaun is supplied by the mains of the Aberdare Urban District Council.

Penderyn is our own supply by mains from the Cadlan and Ogaf-fawr regions. This supply is chlorinated at the Cadlan pumphouse by means of a semi-automatic apparatus installed during 1944 by Messrs. Boby of Rickmansworth, and is giving satisfactory service. Samples of water have been analysed and are satisfactory in quality.

In the village of Ystradfellte, which comprises 10 houses, a school and some scattered farms, unfortunately, there is no water supply from the main. The Council has been very concerned about this matter, and has approaced the Neath R.D.C. on several occasions for a piped supply. The objection raised to this has been that the pressure at these points has been too high. This does not seem to me to be an insuperable difficulty. It is necessary that this sanitary defect should be remedied, for it is perfectly obvious that no efficient cleansing of utensils in farms where milk is produced or washing down of the udders and flanks of cows can take place without a good and sufficient water supply, which, at the present time, does not exist.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal Works. The Council has now provided efficient drainage and sewage works for all the area, except the small village of Ystradfellte, where a small sewage disposal works was under contemplation prior to the outbreak of war. This proposal has, of necessity, been suspended. The sewage works at Hirwaun needs to be modernised and this will undoubtedly have your consideration now that hostilities have ceased.

Refuse Collection. This collection takes place on three days a week in the Cefn Coed and Hirwaun areas ; two days a week at Pontneathvaughan, and once at Pontsticill and Ystradfellte. There is only one motor lorry, which is owned by the Council itself. It appears to me that the question of an incinerator at Hirwaun should be examined very seriously in the near future.

Milk, Meat and Other Foods. Since the outbreak of war, as you are aware, meat has been slaughtered in the Government Central Slaughter-houses, where the meat is inspected before delivery There are no such slaughter-houses in our area. A close inspection is made of meat and other foods in retail establishments.

Dairies and cowsheds have been inspected during the year and building licences were granted to erect two new dairies. Many of the existing cowsheds, though clean, require modernisation, and the co-operation of the War Agricultural Committee has been sought to provide grants for water supplies to farms.

Thirty samples of milk were taken for cleanliness tests. The bulk of the milk produced in the area is sold to milk depots where it is pasteurised.

HOUSING :

It was ascertained in 1939 that 202 new houses would be needed in the area, 102 of which have been erected leaving 100 for erection at the cessation of hostilities. The Council has contemplated an extension of the existing estates at Bryntaf, Cefn Coed, and at Maesynynon, Hirwaun, and also to erect houses at Pontsticill and Pontneathvausghan. During the year, a new houing application register was commenced and it was noted that applications from ex-servicemen and young married couples living in apartments exceeded the number from other sources. Most of these applicants live in apartments or share their parents' homes, causing overcrowding. The future provision of pre-fabricated bungalows will help to alleviate this overcrowding.

Repairs to Council and privately owned houses have been restricted by the shortage of material and labour, and an effort

has been made to have essential repairs carried out by the issue of Civil Building Licences.

The rural housing survey was commenced duringthe year. This survey, when completed, will show in detail the standard and condition of the houses in the area. The results of the survey will be tabulated, under the following classifications :

Class A. Houses fit for habitation, or with minor defects only.

Class B. Houses requiring structural alteration or repair.

Class C. Houses requiring reconditioning.

Class D. Houses requiring demolition and replacement.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality During 1945.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
Ages.	*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary.*		*Pulmonary.*		*Non-Pulmonary.*	
Years.	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*
5-15	—	—	1	—	—	— ...	—	1
15-25	1	1	—	1	—	— ...	—	—
25-35	—	2	1	—	1	1 ...	—	—
35-45	—	1	—	—	—	— ...	—	—
45-55	—	1	—	—	—	— ...	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	—	— ...	1	—
Over 65	1	1	—	—	1	1 ...	—	—
Totals	3	6	2	1	2	2 ...	1	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN 1945.

Disease.	*Total Cases.*	*Admitted to Hospital.*	*Deaths.*
Small Pox	—	... — ...	—
Scarlet Fever...	5	... — ...	—
Diphtheria	8	... 8 ...	—
Enteric Fever	—	... — ...	—
Pneumonia	1	... — ...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	... — ...	—
Erysipelas	1	... — ...	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	... — ...	—
Measles	72	... — ...	—
Whooping Cough	—	... — ...	—
Influenza	—	... — ...	—
Scabies	3	... — ...	—
Dysentery	1	... — ...	—

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME.		£	s.	d.
BALANCE brought forward from 31st March, 1944		2319	18	1½
Rate Income—				
General Expenses chargeable on whole district, including additional Items of General Rates		36720	4	0
Special Rates		345	15	7
Water Rates and Charges (Penderyn)		88	19	6
do. (Ystradfellte)		0	6	0
Ministry of Health—				
Parochial Exchequer Grants		191	10	0
Exchequer Grant—Capitation Sum		63	0	[illegible]
Tithe Act Grant		265	16	[illegible]
Government Evacuation Scheme—Reimbursement		1143	16	0
Ministry of Labour—				
Grant—Penderyn Waterworks		97	12	8
Brecon County Council—				
Salaries of Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector—Grant		228	4	6
Proportion of Parochial Exchequer Grants		95	15	0
A.R.P.—Reimbursement of Expenditure		40	15	2
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed—				
Income from Sale of Meals, etc.		5150	7	9
Other Income—				
Rental of Garden—Cefn Sewage Disposal Work ...	£0 6 0			
Sale of Hay do. ...	2 10 0			
		2	16	0
Rental of Garden—Cefn Isaf, Cefn Coed ...	0 1 0			
Sale of Ashes from Refuse Tip, Cefn Coed ...	64 4 0			
		64	5	0
Receipts—Public Conveniences		1	2	1
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts		16	3	0
Sale of Salvage		12	10	1
Searches—Local Land Registry		4	18	0
Petrol Licences		4	10	0
Bank Interest		12	8	0
Government Evacuation Scheme—Income		165	4	3
National Fire Service—Reimbursement of Expenditure ...		249	2	4
Miscellaneous Income		264	7	10½
	£47,509	7	4	

EXPENDITURE.				£	s.	d.
Due under Precepts—						
Brecon County Council				27881	18	6
Breconshire County Assessment Committee ...				41	1	10
Vaynor Parish Council				100	0	0
Penderyn Parish Council				30	0	0
Ystradfellte Parish Council				81	4	6
Sewage Disposal Works—						
Cefn Coed Sewage Disposal Works—Working Exes.				387	1	3
Pontsticill Sewage Dis. Works—Working Exes.	235	9	6			
Pontsticill Sewage Disposal Works— do. Loan and Interest	89	13	8			
				325	3	2
Cwaun Sewage Disposal Works—Working Exes.	256	13	9			
do. (Hng.)—Loan and Interest	8	3	9			
				264	17	6
Penderyn Sewage Disposal Works—Working Exes.	212	4	9			
do. Loan and Interest	185	8	0			
				397	12	9
Pontneathvaughan Sew. Dis. Works—Working Exes.	212	15	10			
do. Loan and Interest	131	14	6			
				344	10	4
Waterworks—Penderyn: Working Expenses ...	628	11	8			
do. do. Loan and Interest ...	381	11	6			
				1010	3	2
do. Ystradfellte: Working Expenses ...				3	9	6
Scavenging—Throughout District				1152	4	6
Public Conveniences				25	5	3
Public Lighting—Vaynor	122	18	8			
do. Penderyn	80	13	9			
do. Ystradfellte	37	10	0			
				241	2	5
Yards and Sheds				17	9	6
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed—						
Working Expenses	4961	13	5			
Amortisation of Capital	152	0	0			
				5113	13	5
Playing Field, Cefn Coed				44	5	8
Public Health Services—						
Notification of Disease & General Disinfection	38	6	9			
Salaries of Officers, etc.	1189	6	0			
Maintenance of Fever Patients	206	16	0			
Diphtheria Immunisation	2	15	0			
Returns of Births and Deaths	1	14	0			
Brecon Isolation Hospital	6	1	6			
Milk and Water Testing	7	17	5			
				1452	16	8
Housing—						
Annual Contribution—Housing Revenue A/c. ..	319	16	9			
Additional Contribution do. ...	37	6	8			
				357	3	5
Financial Adjustment—						
Ystradfellte Parish—Loan and Interest				458	6	4
Cost of Collection of Rates—General Rate ...	804	12	0			
do. Special Rate	7	14	11			
				812	6	11
Valuation Expenses				286	13	6
Establishment Charges				626	5	11
Other Expenses—						
National Fire Service—Contribution	133	10	0			
do. Works Account	249	2	4			
				382	12	4
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts				13	7	7
Salvage—Cost of Collection				182	6	2
War Damage Act—Contribution				95	12	2
Brecon Joint Planning Committee—Contrib't'n				112	0	7
Brecon County Council—Superannuation Fund				250	0	9
Air Raid Precautions				35	19	1
Government Evacuation Scheme—Expenditure...				987	18	4
National Insurances				65	14	9
Miscellaneous				187	6	6½
BALANCE carried forward				3741	13	0½
				£47,509	7	4

Income :	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balances *Brought Forward*						
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	56	3	7			
Playing Field	31	18	9			
Housing	2778	3	0			
				2866	5	4
Small Dwellings Acquisition :						
Repayment of Advances ...				19	10	0
Housing						
Revenue and Special Accounts				567	3	9
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed :						
Ministry of Food—Repaym't of Balance of Capital Expenditure	360	3	9			
Amortisation Fund Account	367	0	0			
				727	3	9
Balance Carried Forward ...						
Small Dwellings Acquisition				6	10	0
				£4186	12	10

Audited and Found Correct :

(*Signed*) A. R. PARR,

31*st August*, 1945. *Assistant District Auditor.*

TWO.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS.

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balances Brought Forward :						
Small Dwellings Acquisition	8	13	4			
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed...	360	3	9			
				368	17	1
Small Dwellings Acquisition				17	6	8
Housing :						
Revenue & Special Accounts				80	1	8
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed :						
Min. of Food—On Account of Amortisation Provision ...				34	4	11
Balances Carried Forward						
Sewerage & Sewage Disposal	56	3	7			
Playing Field...	31	18	9			
Housing	3265	5	1			
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed	332	15	1			
				3686	2	6
				£4186	12	10

RONALD H. ROSE
Chief Financial Officer.

1*st April*, 1945.